

Application No. 10/615,447 - - - - 6

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6-10 and 14-18, inclusive are under consideration.

The allowance of claims 9 and 14-15 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 7, 8, 16 and 17 is noted with appreciation.

With the exception of claim 16, all the claims indicated as containing allowable subject matter depend from independent claim 6, which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant has deferred rewriting dependent claims 5, 7, 8 and 17 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, pending examination of independent claim 6, but reserves the right to do so should claim 6 be found to be unpatentable.

Recording of the Terminal Disclaimer filed on September 17, 2004 has been noted.

The rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is believed to have been overcome with amendment to these claims in the manner indicated in the Office Action.

Claims 6, 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as anticipated by Bowman '139. Claim 6 is directed to upper and lower brace members defining openings for receiving first and second portions of the bicycle wheel, a feature which is not shown in Bowman '139. Bowman '139 shows channel members, contrary to Applicant's claimed invention. Claims 2 and 3 depend directly or indirectly from claim 6 and incorporate the limitations thereof, and are accordingly believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth with respect to claim 6, as well as their own characterizations. The rejection of claims 6, 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) is believed to have been fully overcome.

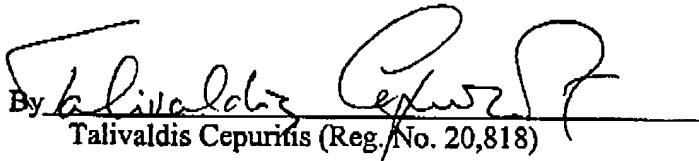
Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Bowman '139. Claim 10 depends from claim 6 and is believed to be allowable the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 6, as well as for its own characterizations.

Application No. 10/615,447 - - - - - 7

The present amendments to the claims are believed to dispose of all issues in this case and to place this application in condition for allowance. Early such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

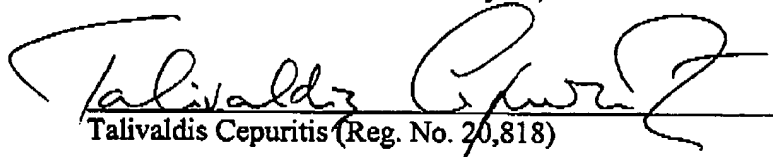
July 29, 2005

By 
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER RULE 111 is being transmitted by facsimile transmission to Fax No. 571-273-8300 on July 29, 2005.


Talivaldis Cepuritis (Reg. No. 20,818)